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GLOSSARY

Below is a selection of the terms, definitions and acronyms believed to be of most use to the readers of the I-270/ US 15 DEIS.

A-Weighted Decibels (dBA):

A noise measurement unit that corresponds to the average response of the human ear.

AADT:

Annual Average Daily Traffic. The number of vehicles passing a given point over a 24-hour period (daily traffic), averaged over an entire calendar or fiscal year.

Access Control:

The restriction of direct access between a roadway and an immediate adjacent property.

1) Full Access Control -- Allows access to a highway facility via interchange only (i.e. no at-grade crossings), eliminating private driveway access. 2) Partial Access Control – Allows access to a highway facility from public roads and from private driveways through intersections or interchanges. 3) Uncontrolled Access – Access is limited only to safe locations dependent upon the horizontal and vertical characteristics of the highway. All crossroads, driveways, etc. may have points of ingress or egress to the highway.

Access Management:

Limits and/or removes the number of points at which vehicles may enter or exit a highway. Access management may include combining entrances and parking lots and adding service roads.

ADT:

Average Daily Traffic. The number of vehicles that pass a specified location over a 24-hour period.

AGP:

Annual Growth Policy. The AGP helps Montgomery County officials coordinate the timing of private development with the availability of public facilities. The AGP is designed to affect the timing of development not the total amount, type, or mix of development.

Air Pollution:

The presence of unwanted material in the air in sufficient amount and under such circumstances as to interfere significantly with human comfort, health, or welfare, or with full use and enjoyment of property.

Alignment:

The horizontal and vertical location of a roadway, railroad, transit route or other linear transportation facility.

Alternates:

Two or more reasonable options for addressing Corridor transportation problems.

Ambient Air Quality:

A physical and chemical measure of the concentration of various chemicals in the outside air, usually determined over a specific time period, for example, 5 minutes, 1 hour, or 1 day.

APE:

Area of potential effect. The geographic area within which a transportation project may cause changes in the character of or use of historic properties.

APFO:

Adequate Public Facilities Ordinance. APFOs are local ordinances that require adequate public facilities and services to be available before new development can be built.

Aquifer:

A water-bearing unit or stratum of permeable rock, sand, or gravel capable of yielding considerable quantities of water to wells and springs.

ARDS:

Alternates Retained for Detailed Study. A set of transportation strategies that are evaluated in the SHA Stage II Project Planning process. In Stage II, as part of the NEPA process, the alternates retained from previous studies (in this case, the No-Build, TSM/TDM, Alternates 3A/B, 4A/B and 5A/B/C) were evaluated under a new MWCOG travel forecasting model run with revised traffic volume information; detailed engineering and environmental analyses were performed; and a Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) was produced that reviews the detailed alternates and environmental impacts.

Arterial:

A major thoroughfare, used primarily for through traffic rather than for access to abutting land, that is characterized by high vehicular capacity and continuity of movement.

Baseline Conditions:

Existing conditions from which the environmental effects (air quality, water quality, traffic, noise and vibration) are measured.

Best Management Practice (BMP):

Measures to control the quantity and quality of stormwater leaving a drainage basin. Local and state jurisdictions have adopted BMPs to counteract physical development and construction activity that may concentrate stormwater or produce soil erosion.

BRT:

Bus rapid transit. BRT uses buses to emulate the speed, reliability, and image of light rail. Bus service will operate in two general formats: (1) line haul along the CCT; and (2) smaller feeder buses which circulate through neighborhoods before using the busway.

Busway:

A roadway exclusively reserved for transit buses.

CAA:

Clean Air Act. The Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990 (CAA) directed the EPA to implement strong environmental policies and regulations that will ensure cleaner air quality.

Calibration:

1) Reconciliation of an instrument with an established standard. 2) In modeling, the procedure used to estimate the parameters of a model or to adjust a model to replicate actually measured conditions.

Capital Cost:

The expense of transportation improvement project construction, materials procurement, equipment installation, and vehicles.

CBD:

Central Business District. The downtown area of a city.

CCT:

Corridor Cities Transitway. A transit alignment from the Shady Grove Metro Station to COMSAT for a separate busway or light rail transit system.

CERCLA:

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act, commonly known as Superfund. Enacted by Congress on December 11, 1980, this law created a tax on the chemical and petroleum industries and provided broad Federal authority to respond directly to releases or threatened releases of hazardous substances that may endanger public health or the environment.

CERCLIS:

The Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation and Liability Information System is a compilation of sites the USEPA has investigated or is currently investigating for a release of hazardous substances pursuant to CERCLA.

Champion Tree:

The largest tree of its species within the US, the state, county, or municipality as determined by each jurisdiction.

CHART:

Coordinated Highway Action Response Team. It is comprised of a number of sub-systems, including traffic monitoring, traveler information, incident management, and traffic management. All of these mechanisms help with the flow of traffic throughout the state of Maryland.

CLRP:

Constrained Long Range Plan. Responds to federal requirements that funding sources be identified for all strategies and projects included in long-range plans. Updated at least every three years, the CLRP includes only those projects and strategies that can be implemented over the planning period with funds that are reasonably expected to be available.

CMS:

Congestion Management System. CMS was introduced as a requirement by the Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act (ISTEA) and provides for comprehensive monitoring, evaluation and enhancement of multi-modal transportation system performance in metropolitan areas with a population of over 200,000. The program requires that planning for all projects, which may add highway capacity in non-attainment areas, consider CMS strategies that reduce single-occupant vehicle travel and improve transportation efficiency.

COMAR:

Code of Maryland Regulations. A permanent compilation of all Maryland agency regulations. Started in 1977, COMAR is divided into 31 titles, with each title usually corresponding to a department or agency within State government.

Commuting Patterns:

Travel behavior patterns in a given area for persons traveling to and from their place of employment.

Commercial Areas:

Areas in which commercial (retail) activity is the predominant land use.

Comprehensive Plan:

An overall plan stating public policy intentions for the future development of a community or jurisdiction, including the general location and character of development. Also, called a general or master plan, it provides official guidelines for growth and change in a community.

Conceptual Engineering:

The level of design at which the basic characteristics of each alternate is defined, including location on the ground, height, location of possible stations, frequency of service and operating policies, and general capital, operating and maintenance costs.

Conformity:

The Clean Air Act stipulates that any approved transportation project, plan, or program must conform to the State Implementation Plan (SIP), a document that prescribes procedures for the implementation, maintenance, and enforcement of primary and secondary air pollutants.

Corridor:

A strip of land between two termini within which topography, environmental and other characteristics are evaluated for transportation purposes.

Cost-Effectiveness:

An analytical technique used to choose the most effective method for achieving a program or policy goal. The costs of alternates are measured by their requisite estimated monetary expenditures. Effectiveness is defined by the degree of goal attainment and may also (but not necessarily) be measured in monetary terms.

CSIS:

Candidate Safety Improvement Section (formerly known as an High Accident Section, or HAS) is defined as a half-mile section (or less) of roadway with an accident rate exceeding the statewide average, discounting intersection-related accidents.

CSPS:

Countywide Stream Protection Strategy. The first countywide assessment of stream resource conditions based upon assessment of aquatic life and stream channel habitat indicators in addition to typically applied stream chemistry measurements.

CTP:

Consolidated Transportation Program. A report developed each year in draft form and presented to every county in Maryland and Baltimore City. Following distribution of the draft document, the Maryland Department of Transportation representatives visit each county both to present the information and receive comments on the plan and program.

Cumulative Effects:

The impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of an action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions, regardless of what agency (Federal, or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions.

dBA:

Decibels (A-weighted scale which adjusts to simulate human hearing).

DEIS/EIS:

Draft Environmental Impact Statement/Environmental Impact Statement. A comprehensive study of likely environmental impacts that will result from major federally assisted projects. The National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 requires an EIS.

Density (land use):

Refers to the concentration of development in a given geographical area.

DBH:

Diameter at Breast Height. Diameter of trees at breast height (about 4.5 feet from the ground).

DEP:

Montgomery County Department of Environmental Protection. The Department of Environmental Protection protects and enhances the quality of life through conservation, **preservation, and restoration of the environment, guided by the principles of science**, resource management, sustainability, and stewardship. The two components of the department are Watershed Management and Environmental Policy and Compliance.

DNR:

Maryland Department of Natural Resources. State agency responsible for the protection, restoration and enhancement of natural resources such as fisheries, wildlife resources, forests, aquatic habitat, threatened and endangered species, etc. under its jurisdiction.

Effect:

For purposes of this DEIS, refers to a measurable change precipitated by the proposed transportation improvement.

EJ:

Environmental Justice. A term referring to unjust dispersion of adverse effects to human health and the environment on minority or low-income populations resulting from public infrastructure projects, such as construction of highways and land fills.

Endangered:

An organism of very limited numbers that may be subject to extinction and is protected by law under the Endangered Species Act.

Equity:

In transportation planning, a normative measure of fairness among recipients of mobility benefits, costs and impacts.

Express Bus:

A bus that makes few or no stops between the start and end points of the bus route.

Feeder Bus:

Local bus routes connecting to rail stations.

FEIS:

Final Environmental Impact Statement. The final version of one or more drafts and supplemental draft environmental impact statements for a given federally assisted project.

FEMA:

Federal Emergency Management Agency. FEMA has ten regional offices, and two area offices. Each region serves several states, and regional staff work directly with the states to help plan for disasters, develop mitigation programs, and meet needs when major disasters occur.

FHWA:

Federal Highway Administration. A component of the US Department of Transportation, established to oversee the development of a national road and highway system. The FHWA assists states in constructing highways and roads and provides financial aid at the local level.

FIRM:

Flood Insurance Rate Maps. Maps produced by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) to determine the locations of flood risks and hazards.

Floodplain:

Land that is periodically inundated by floodwaters.

Forecast Zone:

Large aggregate analysis areas comprised of several individual transportation analysis zones (TAZs are small analysis areas formed by jurisdictional boundaries, major highways, and barriers to travel such as rivers).

FPPA:

Farmland Protection Policy Act. Congress enacted the Farmland Protection Policy Act as a subtitle of the 1981 Farm Bill. The FPPA stipulates that federal programs be compatible with state, local and private efforts to protect farmland. For the purposes of the law, federal programs include construction projects – such as highways, airports, dams and federal buildings – sponsored or financed in whole or in part by the federal government, and the management of federal lands. The US Department of Agriculture’s Natural Resources Conservation Service is charged with oversight of the FPPA.

FTA:

Federal Transit Administration. A component of the US Department of Transportation, established to oversee the development of the public transportation system. The FTA assists states in constructing public transit systems and provides financial aid at the local level.

Fugitive Dust:

Dust created by the movement of construction equipment over exposed land.

Future Design Year:

The year for which traffic projections have been made and transportation needs analyzed; 2025 is the Future Design Year for the I-270/US 15 Multi-Modal Corridor DEIS.

GIS:

Geographic Information System.

Grade:

- 1) Refers to a rise in elevation within a specified distance. For example, a 1% grade is a 1-foot or 0.305 meter rise in elevation in 100 feet or 30.5 meters of horizontal distance.
- 2) “At grade” refers to a transportation facility built at ground level.

Guideway:

The structure or surface upon which a transit vehicle will operate.

Headway:

Refers to the number of minutes between transit service, bus or train departures.

HOV:

High Occupancy Vehicle. Motorcycles or vehicles containing two or more occupants may use a dedicated lane for HOV use. HOV lanes are used to encourage commuters to carpool.

Hydric Soils:

“A soil that is saturated, flooded, or ponded long enough during the growing season to develop anaerobic conditions that favor the growth and regeneration of hydrophytic vegetation,” according to current wetlands delineation methodology (USCOE, 1987).

ISA:

Initial Site Assessment. Consists of a database search for prior hazardous materials violations and a site reconnaissance to identify environmental conditions, such as dumping or stained soils, that warrant additional investigation.

ISTEA:

Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act of 1991, a major authoring legislation for surface transportation. Includes various programs and initiatives for improving transportation safety, protecting communities and the natural environment, and advancing the nation’s economic growth through efficient and flexible transportation.

ITS:

Intelligent Transportation System. Broad range of diverse technologies, including information processing, communications, control, and electronics that enables people and goods to move more safely and efficiently through a state-of-the-art intermodal transportation system.

JD:

Jurisdictional Determination. A map or document prepared in accordance with US Army Corps of Engineers (USCOE) standards and procedures to identify the locations and extent of wetlands and waters of the US under their jurisdiction.

Kiss-and-Ride:

An access mode to transit whereby passengers (usually commuters) are driven to a transit stop and left to board a transit unit and then met after their return trip. Transit stations usually provide a designated area for dropping off and picking up such passengers.

L_{eq}:

A descriptor commonly used to represent fluctuating sound levels over an extended period of time as a constant value.

L-A-C:

Local Activity Center. A zoning category consisting of a mixture of commercial retail and service uses along with complimentary residential densities within a hierarchy of centers servicing three distinct service areas: neighborhood, village, and community.

LOS:

Level of Service. 1) A set of characteristics that indicate the quality and quantity of transportation service provided, including characteristics that are quantifiable (system performance, e.g., frequency, travel time, travel cost, number of transfers, safety) and those that are difficult to quantify (service quality, e.g., availability, comfort, convenience, modal image). 2) For highway systems, a qualitative rating of the effectiveness of a highway or highway facility in serving traffic, in terms of operating conditions. The Highway Capacity Manual identifies operating conditions ranging from A, for best operations (low volume, high speed), to F, for worst conditions.

LOV:

Low occupancy vehicles.

LRT:

Light Rail Transit. An electrically powered transit mode using overhead wires that can be operated in street, in mixed traffic, with street crossings and in exclusive rights of way.

M-A-C:

Major Activity Center. A zoning category consisting of a mixture of high concentration uses such as commercial and other public and private sector businesses that serve a regional residential market or provide concentrated employment, arranged to allow easy pedestrian access between uses. May also include other land uses including residential and recreational uses.

Major Employment Center:

An area characterized by a high concentration of public and private employment.

MARC:

Maryland Rail Commuter. The local commuter rail passenger service operated by the Maryland Transit Administration (MTA). MARC service offers three lines: Penn Line from Perryville, MD (Cecil County) to Baltimore and Washington, DC; Camden Line from downtown Baltimore to Washington, DC; and Brunswick Line from Martinsburg, WV to Washington, DC.

MBSS:

Maryland Biological Stream Survey. Maintained by the Maryland Department of Natural Resources Monitoring and Non-Tidal Assessment Division.

MDE:

Maryland Department of the Environment. State agency responsible for the protection, restoration and quality of Maryland's air, water and land resources including wetland habitats, ground and surface waters, mineral resources, etc. under its jurisdiction.

MDOT:

Maryland Department of Transportation. A cabinet-level state agency of the State of Maryland with responsibility for the development and management of transportation facilities and services within the State.

MDP:

Maryland Department of Planning. State agency responsible for consideration of transportation alternatives under the State's growth policies including the Smart Growth and Neighborhood Conservation Initiatives, including the Priority Funding Areas Act (PFA).

SHA:

Maryland State Highway Administration. An agency of the Maryland Department of Transportation with responsibility for the planning, development, operation and maintenance of the state's highway and road network.

Median:

The center portion of a divided highway separating opposing lanes of traffic.

MIS:

Major Investment Study. The MIS is a transportation planning process undertaken to decide the design concept and scope of a major transportation investment for a given corridor. This process is required for a major metropolitan transportation investment that is identified and in which Federal funds may be involved.

Mitigation Measures:

Steps taken to moderate or reduce the adverse effects of constructing or operating a major transit improvement.

Mixed Traffic:

The use of a single guideway or street by various types of transportation vehicles, such as cars, buses, and trucks.

M-NCPPC:

Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission. An agency of the State of Maryland responsible for a variety of public property management activities in Montgomery County including the preparation and adoption of the General Plan for physical development of the Maryland-Washington Regional District and the acquisition, development, operation and maintenance of public parkland.

Modal Split (Mode Split):

1) The proportion of total person trips that uses each of various specified modes of transportation. 2) The process of separating total person trips into the modes of travel used. 3) A term that describes how many people use alternative forms of transportation. It is frequently used to describe the percentage of people who use private automobiles, as opposed to the percentage who use public transportation.

Mode:

A particular form of travel, for example, walking, traveling by automobile, traveling by bus, traveling by train.

Model:

1) A mathematical or conceptual presentation of relationships and actions within a system. It is used for analysis of the system or its evaluation under various conditions; examples include land use, economic, socioeconomic, transportation. 2) A mathematical description of a real life situation that used data on past and present conditions to make a projection about the future.

MPDU:

Moderately Priced Dwelling Unit Program. Montgomery County ordinance that requires projects with 50 or more units to have 12.5% to 15% moderately priced units, defined as units affordable at 65% of the County's median income.

MPO:

Metropolitan planning organization. Regional planning organization that integrates urban transportation planning at the local level.

MTA:

Maryland Transit Administration. An agency of the Maryland Department of Transportation responsible for the development and management of mass transit services within the State.

Multi-Modal:

A transportation study, plan, project and/or evaluation involving more than one transportation mode.

MVM:

Million vehicle miles.

MWCOG:

Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments. A regional public agency with responsibility for coordinating a variety of public services, including transportation, for the greater Washington metropolitan area.

NAAQS:

National Ambient Air Quality Standards. A level of air pollution concentration, as defined by the US Environmental Protection Agency, that cannot be exceeded as mandated by the Federal Clean Air Act. A concentration is an amount of pollution in the air over a given time period.

NEPA:

National Environmental Policy Act of 1969. A comprehensive Federal law requiring an analysis of the environmental effects of Federally-assisted actions and projects, including the preparation of an Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for every major Federal project that significantly affects the quality of the human environment.

Network:

1) In planning, a system of links and nodes that describes a transportation system. 2) In highway engineering, the configuration of highways that constitutes the total system. 3) In transit operations, a system of transit lines or routes, usually designed for coordinated operation.

NHPA:

National Historic Preservation Act of 1969, as amended. Federal legislation to safeguard the Nation's prehistoric resources and historic buildings sites, and environments.

NIH:

National Institutes of Health. The NIH is one of eight health agencies of the Public Health Services, which in turn, is part of the US Department of Health and Human Services. Comprised of 27 separate components, mainly Institutes and Centers, NIH has 75 buildings on more than 300 acres in Bethesda, MD.

NIST:

National Institute of Standards and Technology. Non-regulatory federal agency within the US Department of Commerce responsible for development of measurement, standards, and technology to enhance productivity, facilitate trade, and improve quality of life.

NPDES:

National Pollution Discharge Elimination System. All industrial and municipal wastewater treatment facilities which discharge effluents into Maryland's waters must have a National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) permit. This permit is issued by the Maryland Department of the Environment (MDE) and sets discharge limitations and contains various restrictions and monitoring requirements to insure that the discharge will not degrade water quality or harm aquatic life. The permits require the dischargers to monitor their effluents and submit their own data to show that they are complying with these restrictions.

NRCS:

Natural Resources Conservation Service. Agency under the US Department of Agriculture to help people conserve, improve, and sustain natural resources on private lands and in the environment.

NRHP:

National Register of Historic Places. A United States catalog that gives formal recognition to sites, structures, and districts of historic significance.

NWI:

National Wetland Inventory. The US Fish and Wildlife Service produces the NWI with information on the characteristics, extent, and status of the Nation's wetlands and deepwater habitats.

NTWSSC:

Nontidal Wetlands of Special State Concern. Nontidal wetlands of Special State Concern are the best examples of Maryland's nontidal wetland habitats and are designated for special protection under the State's nontidal wetlands regulations. These 365 wetland sites with exceptional ecological and educational value offer landowners opportunities to observe and safeguard the beauty and natural diversity of Maryland's best remaining wetlands. Many of these special wetlands contain the last remaining populations of native plants and animals that are now rare and threatened with extinction in the state.

Off-Peak Period:

In transit, the time of day during which vehicle requirements and schedules are not influenced by peak-period passenger volume demands (e.g., between morning and afternoon peak periods). At this time, transit riding is fairly constant and usually low to moderate in volume when compared with peak-period travel.

Park and Ride:

A parking area designed for use by mass transit patrons who start their trip by private automobile and then transfer to transit.

Patronage:

Refers to the potential ridership attracted to a transit system or a transit station.

Peak Period:

1) The period during the day in which the maximum amount of travel typically occurs. It may be specified as the morning (a.m.) or afternoon or evening (p.m.) peak. 2) The period when demand for transportation service is heaviest.

PFA:

Priority Funding Areas. PFAs consist of existing communities and other locally designated areas for future growth as determined by local jurisdictions in accordance with Maryland's Smart Growth guidelines.

Preferred Alternate:

A single alternate from a list of several alternates that is believed to best address transportation problems.

Project Area:

The immediate geographical boundaries of a given transportation improvement project.

Public Hearing:

A formal meeting called to receive public comment on a proposed action.

Public Meeting:

An informal meeting called to present information about and to discuss a proposed action.

PUD:

Planned urban development. Consists of residential buildings clustered or laid out with reduced setbacks and amenities, such as adequate open spaces and other design provisions, to create a more desirable environment.

RCRA:

Resource Conservation and Recovery Act of 1976. Federal legislation that provides for the environmentally safe disposal of hazardous materials.

Reverse Commuting:

A commuting travel pattern that is characterized by travel from the central city location to suburban locations, typically during peak hours.

Ridership:

Current or expected users of public transit.

ROD:

Record of Decision. A document prepared by the Division Office of the Federal Highway Administration that presents the basis for selecting a specific transportation proposal that has been evaluated through the various environmental and engineering studies of the Transportation Project Development Process. Typically, the ROD identifies that alternate selected in the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS), the alternates considered, measures to minimize harm, monitoring or enforcement programs, and itemized commitments and mitigation measures.

ROW:

Right-of-Way. Land owned by state and/or local jurisdictions that is necessary to accommodate construction, drainage, and proper maintenance of transportation or other public facilities.

RTE:

Rare, threatened and endangered species. Species of fish, wildlife and plants facing extinction and subject to special protection.

SCEA:

Secondary and Cumulative Effects Analysis. Secondary or indirect impacts are "...caused by the action and are later in time or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonably foreseeable." (40 CFR § 1508.8(b)). Cumulative effects are "...the impact on the environment which results from the incremental impact of the action when added to other past, present, and reasonable foreseeable future actions regardless of what agency (Federal, or non-Federal) or person undertakes such other actions." (40 CFR § 1580.7, 1997).

Scoping:

A process occurring near the beginning of a Draft Environmental Impact Statement that defines the alternates to be studied, identifies issues to be addressed, and defines a public involvement program. A key feature is intensive public, interest group, and government agency involvement.

Scoping Meeting:

A formal opportunity for the public, interest group and government agency representatives to provide input on the alternates to be evaluated and the issues to be addressed in a Draft Environmental Impact Statement.

Screening of Alternates:

To evaluate many suggested alternates in order to identify the most reasonable alternates for, and to eliminate unreasonable alternates from, further consideration. Alternates proposed during Scoping will be screened during the analysis to determine their responsiveness to project goals, Scoping meeting and written input and System Planning findings, to compare their general design and operations characteristics, rough cost, and environmental impact potential.

SDWA:

Safe Drinking Water Act. The SDWA, which celebrated its 25th anniversary in 1999, is the main federal law that ensures the quality of Americans' drinking water. Under SDWA, EPA sets standards for drinking water quality and oversees the states, localities, and water suppliers who implement those standards.

Secondary Effects:

Effects that are caused by the action and are later in time, or farther removed in distance, but are still reasonable foreseeable.

Section 4(f):

Refers to Section 4(f) of the US Department of Transportation Act of 1966, which includes a national policy to make special effort to preserve the natural beauty of the countryside, public parks and recreation lands, wildlife and waterfowl refuges, and significant historic sites.

Section 106:

Refers to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966, which requires federal agencies to consider the potential effects of proposed federal action on any known or potential historic, architectural or archaeological resources.

Service Roads:

Parallel roadways constructed on the outside of major highways to accommodate local traffic and provide access to adjacent landowners.

SHPO:

State Historic Preservation Officer. The SHPO coordinates State participation in identifying historic properties, assessing effects to them, and considering alternatives to avoid or reduce those effects in compliance with NEPA and Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act.

SIP:

State Implementation Plan. SIPs are the adopted planning documents, which determine how the state will meet federal air quality standards. A SIP exists for each of six criteria pollutants identified and considered by USEPA to be the primary air pollutants of concern to human health. The criteria pollutants are: Ozone (O₃); Particulate Matter (PM₁₀ and PM_{2.5}); Carbon Monoxide (CO); Nitrogen Dioxide (NO₂); Sulfur Dioxide (SO₂); and Lead (Pb).

SOV:

Single occupancy vehicles.

TAZ:

Transportation Analysis Zone. TAZs are small analysis areas formed by jurisdictional boundaries, major highways, and barriers to travel such as rivers.

TCM:

Transportation Control Measures. Strategies, which seek to reduce travel demand by changing the behavior of motorists. These strategies include the promotion of public transit, encouraging ridesharing and carpooling, and organizing employer-sponsored flexible work hour programs. Such strategies form part of an overall Travel Demand Management program.

TDM:

Transportation Demand Management. A program consisting of strategies, which seek to reduce travel demand rather than increase capacity. Examples of strategies included in a TDM program are regional telecommuting programs, ridesharing programs, public transit options, and non-intensive physical changes to existing infrastructure. TCM and TSM strategies are specific components of a Travel Demand Management program.

TEA-21:

Transportation Equity Act for the 21st Century. Congress passed TEA-21 on May 22, 1998 authorizing highway, highway safety, transit and other surface transportation programs until 2004.

TIP:

Transportation Improvement Program. The TIP contains funding information and schedules for various transportation divisions including highways, aviation, enhancements, public transportation, rail, bicycle and pedestrians, and the Governor's Highway Safety Program.

TDS:

Total dissolved solids. Total dissolved solids (TDS) comprise inorganic salts (principally calcium, magnesium, potassium, sodium, bicarbonates, chlorides and sulfates) and small amounts of organic matter that are dissolved in water. TDS in drinking water originate from natural sources, sewage, urban run-off, and industrial wastewater. Salts used for road de-icing in some countries may also contribute to the TDS content of drinking water. Concentrations of TDS in water vary considerably in different geological regions owing to differences in the solubility's of minerals.

Traffic Volume:

The measurement of traffic flow on a particular roadway as expressed in vehicles per day.

Transit Dependent:

A person who through choice, economic and/or physical or mental conditions must rely on public transit to meet local transportation needs.

Transportation Disadvantaged (Low-Mobility Group):

People whose range of transportation alternatives is limited, especially in the availability of relatively easy-to-use and inexpensive alternatives for trip making. Examples include the young, the elderly, the poor, the disabled, and those who do not have automobiles.

TSM:

Transportation System Management. Transportation strategies that seek to reduce travel demand through non-intensive changes to existing infrastructure. These strategies do not seek to provide additional capacity, but attempt to improve circulation. TSM strategies consider such options as improvements to public transit systems, minor intersection improvements, signal timing improvements, and traffic management.

TSS:

Total suspended solids. TSS are solids in water that can be trapped by a filter. TSS can include a wide variety of material, such as silt, decaying plant and animal matter, industrial wastes, and sewage. High concentrations of suspended solids can cause many problems for stream health and aquatic life.

USACOE:

United States Army Corps of Engineers. An agency of the federal government that regulates the discharge of fill or dredged material into waters of the US, including jurisdictional wetlands, as well as construction activities that could obstruct or impede navigation in navigable Waters of the US.

USDA:

United States Department of Agriculture. The USDA serves all Americans, the two percent who farm as well as everyone who eats, wears clothes, lives in a house, or visits a rural area or a national forest. USDA remains committed to assisting America's farmers and ranchers.

USEPA:

United States Environmental Protection Agency. An agency of the federal government responsible for the development and implementation of regulatory policies designed to protect natural and human environmental resources. Responsibilities include implementation of the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and the development and implementation of the national air quality emissions standards as provided for in the Clean Air Act Amendments of 1990.

USFWS:

United States Fish and Wildlife Service. Federal agency responsible for conservation, maintenance and management of the nation's fish and wildlife resources.

USGS:

United States Geological Survey. The USGS, the sole science agency for the Department of the Interior, has natural science expertise and vast earth and biological data holdings to help resolve complex natural resource problems across the Nation and around the world.

V/C:

Volume-to-Capacity Ratio. A measurement of highway/roadway service quality which compares the number of vehicles using or expected to use a given road or segment of a road with the number of vehicles that the facility is designed to handle safely.

VMT:

Vehicle Miles of Travel. A measurement of total miles traveled by all vehicles on a given area or corridor over a given time period. It is calculated by multiplying the number of vehicles by the total number of miles traveled on a given corridor over a given period of time.

Watershed:

The region from which a river or stream receives its supply of water.

Wetlands:

A lowland area that is saturated with water and that contains plant and animal life characteristic of water areas. Wetlands are broadly classified according to where they are located. The major classifications are *marine* (oceanic), *estuarine* (tidal), *riverine* (river), *lacustrine* (lake), and *palustrine* (marsh).

WMATA:

Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority. Regional agency that provides bus and rail transit service to Washington, DC and neighboring communities.